

## Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 SAM-01 SAB-01

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /160 W

----- 020451

R 170820Z MAR 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 844

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 157

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, XF

SUBJECT: IRAQI EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE ME SETTLEMENT

REF: DAMASCUS 198 (NOTAL)

1. VISIT OF RCC MEMBER IZZAT AD-DOURI TO SYRIA (REFTEL) IS MOST RECENT OF NUMEROUS HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGES WITH SYRIANS SINCE OCTOBER WAR. IT IS SEEN HERE AS AN IRAQI EFFORT ALTHOUGH FOR TIME BEING IT MAY COINCIDE WITH SOVIET INTERESTS.

2. CENTRAL IRAQI CONCERN IS BELIEVED TO BE NOT TO END ITS  
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ISOLATION PER SE, BUT TO PREVENT ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ORDER

IN ARAB WORLD DOMINATED BY EGYPT-SAUDI AXIS. BAATH LEADERS FEAR THAT EGYPTIAN-SAUDI DOMINATION WOULD NOT ONLY DENY IRAQ ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE AS HISTORICAL LEADER IN MASHREQ, BUT POSE DIRECT THREAT TO BAATH REGIME. AT MINIMUM, IT WOULD MEAN IRAQ COULD NOT COUNT ON OTHER ARABS IN POSSIBLE FUTURE CONFLICTS WITH IRAN.

3. GIVEN IRAQI AIM TO INFLUENCE SETTLEMENT AND POST-SETTLEMENT STRUCTURE, SYRIA IS OBVIOUSLY KEY COUNTRY AND, ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN AMB NAGGAR, AD-DOURI'S MISSION IS TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD LOOSE KIND OF UNITY AS WAY TO INSERT ITSELF INTO SETTLEMENT EFFORTS. HE DOES NOT EXPECT ANY SUBSTANTIVE UNITY AGREEMENT TO RESULT.

4. IRAQIS WOULD VERY LIKELY BE PURSUING ABOVE POLICY REGARDLESS OF SOVIETS. HOWEVER, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT IN THIS INSTANCE SOVIET AND IRAQI POLICIES ARE PARALLEL UP TO A POINT: I. E. STRENGTHENING OF "PROGRESSIVE" ARAB FRONT TO INFLUENCE SETTLEMENT. NAGGAR IS CONVINCED THAT IRAQIS ARE NOT OUT TO DISRUPT FINAL SETTLEMENT BUT ONLY TO PLAY ROLE AND PROTECT THEIR VITAL INTERESTS. SAME MAY NOT BE TRUE OF SOVIETS. FRENCH AMBASSADOR CERLES, WHO IS STUDENT OF SOVIET POLICY AND PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN MOSCOW, IS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT SOVIETS DO NOT WANT FINAL SETTLEMENT AND ONCE TROOP DISENGAGEMENT COMPLETE AND CANAAL RE-OPENED, SOVIETS WILL REVERT TO OBSTRUCTIONIST POLICIES. LOWRIE

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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